

it is now estimated to be costing American taxpayers over \$1 trillion including interest. Not only should Congress produce a budget, but I am a strong supporter of several measures that promote the establishment of a balanced budget and the elimination of wasteful government programs, including a constitutional amendment that I introduced which requires the Federal Government to balance its budget. Congress must steadfastly hold the line on government spending, which is why I have consistently voted for the tightest budgets offered each year. But maybe not this year. No budget is offered.

As elected officials and stewards of the taxpayers' money, we have a responsibility to put together a sustainable budget and stick to it. The Congress must continue to work to rein in spending and put to practice a spending approach that many Americans already live by: If you don't have it, don't spend it.

Madam Speaker, where's the budget?

1,000 AMERICANS DEAD IN AFGHANISTAN IS FAR TOO MANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, a suicide bomber deliberately crashed his minivan on a street in Kabul during one of the busiest times of the day. According to The New York Times account, and I quote them, "The blast blew bodies apart. Limbs and entrails flew hundreds of feet, littering yards and walls and streets. In a passenger bus, an Afghan woman lay dead in her seat, cut in half, with her baby still squirming in her arms. Fifty yards away, a man's head lay on the hood of a truck." It was the most devastating strike seen in the Afghan capital in some time, Madam Speaker. It served as a kind of "welcome home" from the insurgents to President Karzai, just returning home from his visit to the United States, who was getting ready to brief reporters at the Presidential palace, just a short distance away from the site of the explosion.

Aside from the gruesome civilian casualties, this attack is also significant because it claimed the lives of five of our soldiers, which brings the total number of U.S. troop fatalities in the war in Afghanistan to over 1,000. This tragic milestone should fill us with horror, Madam Speaker. It should keep every one of us awake at night.

For years, the failure to make progress in Afghanistan flew under the radar as the war in Iraq grabbed most of the attention and headlines. But more than 100 months into the Afghan conflict, the mission is clearly floundering. More than half of those 1,000 deaths have occurred just since September of 2008. The decision to send more troops has only intensified the violence and emboldened the militants,

doing nothing to bring lasting stability to Afghanistan and to its people.

This war has not accomplished any of its stated goals. Here we are, 8½ years after we supposedly drove out the Taliban, and lo and behold, the Taliban is resurgent, poised to fill the power vacuum in districts and villages where we've done nothing to build strong and legitimate governing institutions. Remember the reportedly successful military offensive over the winter in Marja? A few months later, it turns out, the residents are fleeing in droves because the Taliban has reasserted itself. One U.S. official now calls Marja "a work in progress but not trending in the right direction." And this is one of the places where we had declared victory.

We have been patient, Madam Speaker. We have given the strategy a chance to work. It failed. It has failed at nearly every turn, and 1,000 deaths is far too many. Before the number grows, let's bring our troops home.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S FAILED TRADE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, how many millions more jobs have to be outsourced before Washington wakes up? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce this week released a report claiming that U.S. trade agreements have support 5.4 million jobs. More than 90 percent of the jobs, according to the Chamber, can be attributed to NAFTA and our NAFTA trading partners, Mexico and Canada. Are we talking about the same country in the same continent?

In the United States I know and the district I return to every weekend, the battering effects of NAFTA and NAFTA-like trade agreements are still being felt: lost jobs, shuttered factories, and beleaguered communities. I can't help but wonder if the Chamber of Commerce is some sort of cruel joke: 5.4 million jobs? No way. Try 1 million jobs lost due to NAFTA. Try 2 million manufacturing jobs lost because of all of the off-shoring that has gone on in this country in the last quarter cen-

tury. Or how about 12,000 to 20,000 service-sector jobs lost every month, many of which have simply been outsourced overseas.

In Ohio, employment just in the manufacturing sector has declined by a third. Companies like Silgan Holdings, Delphi, Georgia Pacific, General Motors, Dixon Ticonderoga, Champion Spark Plug, all have moved to Mexico. Things are not much better in Mexico. By the 10th anniversary of NAFTA, The Washington Post reported that 19 million more Mexicans were living in poverty than 20 years ago; 2 million peasant farmers alone were dispossessed from their land with no adjustment inside that country. So guess what they are doing. They are seeking to live anywhere, including crossing our border because they simply have no other choice. NAFTA didn't take care of them in their home country.

Now over half of the Mexican population is considered poor, while one in four is considered extremely poor and unable to even afford adequate food. The illegal drug trade has swept across that country and locked in fully at our border and across our country. Remember when NAFTA was held out as the ticket to the promised land with millions of new jobs and a rising standard of living? Right here in this very Chamber, Members voted to outsource America's job to a low-wage country with a state-managed economy.

Ross Perot was right: NAFTA has been a giant sucking sound of jobs leaving our country, leaving us behind with a NAFTA trade deficit of over \$1.3 trillion since 1994. The deficits from NAFTA and NAFTA-like trade agreements have caused the great manufacturing that our Nation knew to wither as we saw our companies compete against state-managed capitalism in places like Mexico, China, Japan and so many others. Trade deficits are at the heart of our economic challenge. They destroyed jobs, millions and millions and millions of good jobs. We will never get our economy out of the ditch without fundamental changes in our trade policy.

When trade accounts began their downward spiral, America's economy started to deteriorate. Do you remember the last time we had a balanced trade account? It was 1974 when we had a thriving middle class.

Is it any wonder that our Nation is paying the price of economic policies that led to the current deep recession that Brad DeLong estimates has put a third of our Nation in depression. This was no accident. It is the direct result of over a quarter century of outsourcing U.S. jobs to penny-wage environments and of allowing other nations to keep their markets closed through managed trade practices, substandard environmental systems, and many undemocratic political systems able to exploit their workforces for the benefit of a few owners.

In essence, our market capitalism is forced to compete with state-managed